Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy

1064. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are going to introduce Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the pricing policy for the herbal manufacturing drug in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) 'Modifications in Drug Policy, 86', were announced in September, 1994 and based on that Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy is already in existence.

(c) Existing pricing policy covers drugs used only for Allopathic medicines.

[Translation]

Death of Animals

1065. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether death of animals have taken place in Kamla Nehru Zoological Park, Indore under mysterious circumstances;

(b) if so, whether any investigation has been conducted by the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken against the guilty persons and the steps being taken by the Government to prevent such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) On the night of 12th February, 1995, one dog manage to enter the chinkara enclosure. Consequently, 7 chinkaras died. The dog has reported to have killed 2 chinkaras and remaining chinkaras died due to shock and trauma.

(b) and (c) The preliminary enquiry revealed neglect of duty by night chowkidars. The matter has been handed over to police for enquiry.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Three night chowkidars and one supervisor have been suspended and the daily wages personnel removed from work. The Zoo has taken initiatives to appoint Ex-Army service men for security purposes. One Assistant Engineer has been posted for looking after the maintenance of the enclosures.

Paddy and Cotton Prices

1066. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem under captioned "Akalies, farmer unhappy over hike in paddy cotton prices" appearing in the 'Observer' dated July 3, 1997;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to bring the Pusa-44 variety in the super fine category;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether this variety is being treated in different categories in different States;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the action taken by the Government to include this variety in the super fine variety in all the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) In order to maintain uniformity, the Government of India from 1979-80 onwards had decided to adopt existing norms of classification of paddy/rice varieties grown in India on the basis of Balasubramanian Committee's recommendations and only three groups viz. Superfine, Fine and Common were introduced based on the length/breadth ratio for the purpose of classification of paddy/rice varieties. The paddy/rice varieties having natural aroma were kept in a separate group namely 'Scented' irrespective of their length/breadth ratio. Apart from the above norms of classification there is an in-built mechanism in the form of 'Admixture of lower classes' in the uniform specification of paddy and rice which also plays an important role in so far as the classifications of paddy/rice varieties are concerned.

On the basis of these norms the Pusa-44 variety of paddy/rice stands classified as Fine in the State of Punjab and accordingly this variety was considered to be fine variety by procurement agencies during 1996-97.

In this regard the Govt. of India use to clarify to all State Governments/U.T.s while forwarding the Uniform Specifications of paddy, rice and kharif coarse grains every year including 1996-97 that the procurement of the grains may be ensured by all of them strictly in accordance with the uniform specifications so as to avoid any problem/complaint during storage and subsequent issues to the public.

[English]

Fire Incidents Due to Short Circuits

1067. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Lapton per betha Mahanagar" appearing in 'Dainik Jagaran' dated May 28, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government in the matter; and

(d) the number of major fire incidents caused by electric short circuits in the country during the last three years including the year 1997 so far, State-wise and year-wise with special reference to Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The news item refers, inter alia, to major fires in the recent past in Delhi and gives analysis of the possible causes of these incidents.

As fire is a State subject, it is essentially for the State Governments to take such measures as are necessary to prevent incidents such as those mentioned in the news item. The Central Government, however, on its part has been providing advisories, training facilities and financial assistance to the States to strengthen their infrastructure relating to Fire Services. The Government does not maintain figures of 'causewise' incidents of fire centrally.

[Translation]

Cases Pending Under Consumer Courts

1068. SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :
SHRI RAMSAGAR :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending before the State Consumer's Grievances Redressal Commission till date, level-wise and State-wise and the period of their pendency;

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to dispose of these cases expeditiously; and

(c) the number of cases in which the Commission has taken action during each of the last three years and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) A statement showing the number of cases pending before the Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions, State-wise, as reported by the States/UTs is attached.

(b) Some of the steps taken by the Central Government for speedy disposal of the pending cases by the Consumer Courts are as follows:—

(i) To strengthen the infrastructure of the Consumer Courts, Central Government has provided one-time grant of Rs. 54.62 crores to the States/UTs during 1995-97.

(ii) Central/State Governments and the National Commission are regularly monitoring the working of the Consumer Courts.

(iii) State/UT Governments have been requested to fill up the vacancies of Members/Presidents of various Consumer Courts on priority basis.

(iv) Central Government has written to the State Governments to hold periodical meetings with the Presidents of the Consumer Courts to monitor and expedite the disposal of the cases.

(c) The details of the total number of cases filed and action taken by various courts for disposal since inception are given at the Statement. Separate year-wise figures are not maintained.